

H.J. Res. 69. Joint Resolution providing for the reappointment of Homer Alfred Neal as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution;

H.J. Res. 110. Joint Resolution providing for the appointment of Howard H. Baker, Jr. as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution;

H.J. Res. 111. Joint Resolution providing for the appointment of Anne D'Harnoncourt as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; and

H.J. Res. 112. Joint Resolution providing for the appointment of Louis Gerstner as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills and a concurrent resolution of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1228. An act to deter investment in the development of Iran's petroleum resources;

S. 1340. An act to establish a Commission on Concentration in the Livestock Industry, and for other purposes;

S. 1429. An act to provide clarification in the reimbursement to States for federally funded employees carrying out Federal programs during the lapse in appropriations between November 14, 1995, through November 19, 1995; and

S. Con. Res. 34. Concurrent Resolution to authorize the printing of "Vice Presidents of the United States, 1789-1993".

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain fifteen 1-minute per side.

SAVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the headline in the Washington Post this morning is wrong. It says, "House Republicans Derail Budget Talks." We should make it perfectly clear that the person who derailed the budget talks was Vice President AL GORE when he came out to the microphones at the White House the other night after the Speaker and the majority leader in the Senate met with the President, and he poisoned the well by mischaracterizing the agreements that were made at the White House.

We are intent on balancing the budget, and we are intent on doing it now. We can give our children and our grandchildren the greatest Christmas present that anyone could ever leave to the next generation, and that is a balanced budget which means saving the American dream for our children and theirs.

We are going to do it, and we are going to do it now.

LET US FIND CHRISTMAS

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, it is easy to be hard. It is hard to be both caring and responsible.

Some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, not all, but some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are determined to demonstrate to all America how hard they can be, my way or no way. Scrooge was hard.

The Christmas season, however, challenges us to care, to consider others, to reach out to our human beings, to embrace them. To share, to be caring can be hard.

The fatal plane crash over the mountains of Colombia and the near fatal plane crash on the runway of New York reminds us how all of our lives are uncontrollable, how the perils of our lives, we do not control that. We have many natural problems. We need not create more.

The stalled budget problem is one we created. We created that. This Congress and the President can bridge that gap between Medicare and Medicaid and the CBO numbers. Those are problems we created. They are easy.

I say to my Republican freshmen and others, be determined not to be hard.

Guess what, even Scrooge found Christmas. Please find Christmas.

MY MOM AND DAD: WHAT AMERICA IS ALL ABOUT

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the President and this Congress are engaged in an historic battle over finally balancing this Nation's budget, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the importance of this date, December 21, 1995, to me.

You see, 50 years ago today, December 21, 1945, a young soldier from Massachusetts who had just returned from the war in Europe and a young woman from North Carolina were married. Over that 50 years they raised four children. They now have 9 grandchildren and a 10th on the way. They are both now in their seventies. They are both on Social Security and Medicare, and they both realize, by the way, that we are not cutting Medicare or Social Security, despite what some in this House might allege.

They never had a lot of money, material goods, or that kind of wealth. But they did have something and they still have something that is more important. They have love. They are my mom and dad, and they are an example of what America is all about.

THE BUDGET DEBATE: DO NOT FORGET THE SENIOR CITIZENS

(Mr. REED asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, we continue to resist a Republican budget with deep cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, a Republican budget which has already been repudiated by a broad cross-section of the American public.

And, as we continue to debate the Federal budget, I would like to remind my Republican colleagues that they should not lose sight of the budgets of thousands of senior citizens in their districts.

Today the elderly pay more out-of-pocket than ever before for Medicare coverage and supplemental insurance. In Rhode Island, they pay this with an average income of approximately \$16,000.

Yesterday the New York Times reported that MediGap premiums for over 3 million seniors will increase an average of 30 percent next year. MediGap is the supplemental insurance which is necessary to cover nonhospital medical expenses. In Rhode Island, the average premium increase will be 35 percent.

These higher premiums would come on top of the proposed increases to beneficiaries in the Republican budget.

The Republican budget will raise annual Medicare premiums by \$264 for an elderly couple in 1996 and nearly double premiums by 2002.

And on top of these significant increases, the Republicans also propose to eliminate the Medicaid entitlement which serves as a critical safety net for thousands of seniors in Rhode Island.

I urge we repudiate these massive cuts in Medicare and Medicaid.

ANOTHER STRATEGY FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

(Mr. FORBES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, anybody who had the opportunity to watch the President's remarks yesterday, they would have seen the unveiling of yet another strategy at the White House. After backing away from the promise the President made 30 days ago to the American people to offer a balanced budget using real numbers, the President's latest strategy now has him labeling House Republican freshmen as being extremists and radical. Imagine that. The President of the United States, the leader of the free world, is now held hostage by the Republican freshman class.

Now, I have heard a lot of tall stories in my life, Mr. Speaker, but this one takes the cake. This latest attempt to tar and feather the Republicans as extremist boogymen is just more proof Bill Clinton has no ideas and that he is becoming increasingly irrelevant.

You know, it was just about a year ago the liberal media said that Bill Clinton was irrelevant. Considering his opposition, his opposition to an honest 7-year balanced budget, I think we now have an answer.

DO NOT WALK AWAY FROM OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO WORKING FAMILIES

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1